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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,638	03/22/2001	Harold Mattice	403450	6291

7590

07/10/2003

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EXAMINER

JONES, SCOTT E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/814,638

Applicant(s)

MATTICE ET AL.

Examiner

Scott E. Jones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 22 April 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on April 22, 2003 in which applicant amends the specification, corrects the drawings, and responds to the claim rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wells (U.S. Patent Application Publication U.S. 2002/0115487 A1).

Wells discloses a gaming device network comprising a method and apparatus for permitting communications with a gaming device. In one embodiment of the invention, the invention comprises a network including a host or gaming gateway and a communication interface associated with each gaming device on the network. A communication link is provided between the gaming gateway and the gaming devices. The gaming gateway and communication interfaces are arranged to bi-directionally transmit and receive data over the communications link. In one embodiment, the communications link is an optical communications link.

Furthermore, the network comprises a host communication device capable of transmitting and receiving data, at least one gaming device, a communication interface associated with each

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gaming device, and a communication link provided between each one gaming device and the host communication device, the communications link comprising at least one optic fiber, the host communications device and each communications interface associated with a gaming device configured to bi-directionally communicate data over the communication link. In one embodiment, an optic fiber extends from the gaming gateway to a first gaming device. Another optic fiber extends from the first gaming device to the next gaming device. Another optic fiber extends from the last gaming device back to the gateway. A network loop topography is formed. Furthermore, applicant's invention essentially adheres to IEEE's Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus-1394-1995 (Abstract, Figures 1-4, and Paragraphs 18-26).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed April 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on April 22, 2003. These drawings are accepted.

6. Regarding claims 1, 13, and 24, applicant alleges Wells fails to disclose "a host controller having "a data terminal" and plural local controllers, each of which has "a data in terminal and a data out terminal", interconnected in a string with "the data out terminal of the host controller being controller being connected to the data in terminal of a first local controller and the data in terminal of each of the other local controllers [or nodes] being connected to the data out terminal of the preceding local controller [or node] in the string." The examiner respectfully disagrees. These features are clearly shown in figure 2 and paragraphs 35-39, 45-49, and 52.

7. Furthermore, applicant acquiesces to the rejection to claims 1-36 stating the invention essentially adheres to IEEE's Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus-1394-1995 by simply failing to reply to the rejection.

8. Regarding claims 13, 24, and 31, applicant alleges Wells fails to disclose, "connecting the local controllers in series with one another and with a data out terminal of a host controller so that the local controllers cooperate to define an "MxN-bit shift register." The examiner respectfully disagrees. First, "bit shift registers" have been known since the birth of computers. In regards to personal computers, the design and implementation of the first microprocessor (8086) was built on this premise. Furthermore, most all computers today use some type of microprocessor related in some way to the 8086. Second, the arrangement shown in Wells' figure 2, defines a 4x1-bit shift register with gaming devices (22) being M and gaming gateway (24) being N.

9. Applicant alleges Wells does not disclose a "data out terminal" or a "data in terminal" as required by the claims since Wells can communicate bi-directionally rather than in a single direction. The examiner respectfully disagrees. First, Wells' bi-directional communication does not preclude applicant's mode of communication. Second, Wells discloses, "data may flow in one direction along link (28) from the second device to the first device (paragraph 52).

10. Regarding claim 1, applicant alleges Wells fails to disclose, "a powerline interconnecting the power terminals of the host controller and all the local controllers; and a common line interconnecting the common terminals of the host controller and all of the local controllers." The examiner respectfully disagrees. One would agree that Wells' system requires electricity to power the system. One would also agree that the system can be powered via a series circuit. A

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typical series circuit consisting of 120 Vac requires at least a three-conductor cable consisting of a power leg, neutral line, and a ground wire. Finally, to complete the circuit, the three-conductor cable must connect to each of the devices. Therefore, Wells anticipates claim 1.

11. Applicant alleges each rejected claim requires each local controller be connected to a plurality of devices which can be individually controlled by communications along the series string from the host through several local controllers. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

These features are shown in figures 1 and 2.

12. Therefore, for the reasons discussed hereinabove, the rejection as stated in Office Action, Paper No. 5 is maintained.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

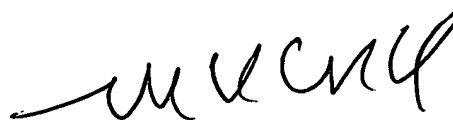
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott E. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-7133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael O'Neill, Acting SPE can be reached on (703) 308-1148. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

SEJ
sej
July 8, 2003



MICHAEL O'NEILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER